



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

JUN 25 2021

William J. Powell
United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of West Virginia

U.S. DISTRICT COURT-WVND
CLARKSBURG, WV 26301

United States Courthouse
1125 Chapline Street, Suite 3000 Phone: (304) 234-0100
P. O. Box 591 FAX: (304) 234-0111
Wheeling, WV 26003

January 14, 2020

L. Richard Walker, Esq.
Federal Public Defender Office-Clk.
The Huntington Bank Bldg.
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Clarksburg, WV 26302
Richard_walker@fd.org

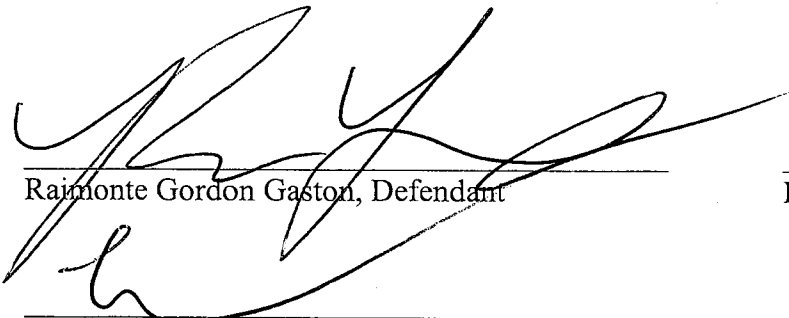
In re: United States v. Raimonte Gordon Gaston, Case Number 1:19CR55-1

Dear Richard:


This will confirm conversations with you concerning your client, Raimonte Gordon Gaston, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"). All references to the "Guidelines" refer to the guidelines established by the United States Sentencing Commission, effective November 1, 1987, as amended.

It is agreed between the United States and your client as follows:

1. Defendant will enter a conditional plea of guilty pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11(a)(2) to Count One of the Superseding Indictment in case number 1:19CR55, charging him with Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Heroin and Fentanyl, in violation of 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C) and 846. By entering a conditional plea of guilty, Defendant reserves the right to appeal any unfavorable order of the Court regarding his *Motion to Suppress* [ECF. No. 33].


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L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant

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2. The maximum penalty to which Defendant will be exposed by virtue of his plea of guilty, as stated in paragraph 1 above is: imprisonment for a period of 20 years, a fine of \$1,000,000, and a term of at least 3 years of supervised release.

It is further understood by Defendant that there is a special mandatory assessment of \$100.00 (18 U.S.C. § 3013) per felony conviction **which must be paid within 40 days following entry of his plea** by money order or certified check to the United States District Court. It is also understood that Defendant may be required by the Court to pay the costs of his incarceration, supervision, and probation.

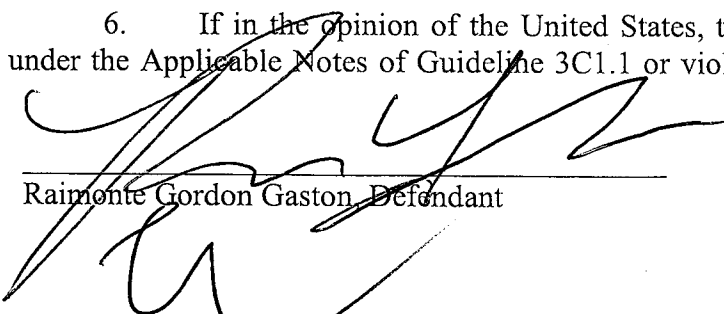
3. At final disposition, the United States will also move to dismiss Counts Two and Three of the Superseding Indictment as they pertain to the Defendant.

4. There have been no representations whatsoever by any agent or employee of the United States, or any other law enforcement agency, or Defendant's counsel as to what the final disposition in this matter should and will be. This agreement includes nonbinding recommendations by the United States, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B); however, Defendant understands that the Court is **not** bound by these sentence recommendations, and that Defendant has **no** right to withdraw a guilty plea if the Court does not follow the sentencing recommendations set forth in this plea agreement.


5. The United States will make the following **nonbinding** recommendations:

- A. If, in the opinion of the United States Attorney's Office, Defendant accepts responsibility and if the probation office recommends a two-level reduction for "acceptance of responsibility," as provided by Guideline 3E1.1, then the United States will concur in and make such recommendation;
- B. Should Defendant give timely and complete information about his own criminal involvement and provide timely notice of his intent to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid trial preparation **and** if he complies with all the requirements of this agreement, **and if the Defendant is eligible under the "Guidelines,"** then United States will recommend an additional one level reduction, so long as Defendant executes the plea agreement on or before **January 16, 2020, at 5:00pm**, and returns an executed copy to the United States by that day;
- C. The United States will recommend that any sentence of incarceration imposed should be at the **low end** of the applicable guideline range.

6. If in the opinion of the United States, the Defendant either engages in conduct defined under the Applicable Notes of Guideline 3C1.1 or violates any other provision of this plea agreement,


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L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant

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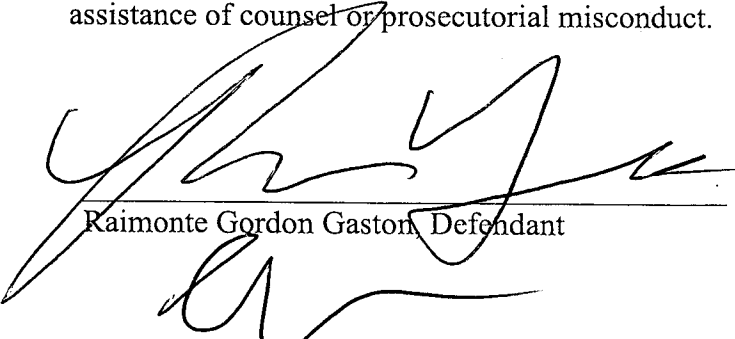
then the United States will not be bound to make the foregoing recommendations, and the Defendant will not have the right to withdraw the plea.

7. Pursuant to Sections 6B1.4 and 1B1.3 of the Guidelines, the parties hereby stipulate and agree that the total amount of drug relevant conduct is **less than 10 grams of heroin**. The parties understand that pursuant to Section 6B1.4(d), the Court is not bound by the above stipulation and is not required to accept the same. Defendant understands and agrees that should the Court not accept the above stipulation, Defendant will not have the right to withdraw his plea of guilty.

8. Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 affords a Defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed. Acknowledging this, and in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement and subject to the right of appeal reserved in Paragraph One, Defendant waives the following rights if the Court sentences the Defendant to Level 12 or less:


- A. Defendant knowingly waives all right, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291 or any other statute or constitutional provision, to appeal the Defendant's conviction on any ground whatsoever. This includes a waiver of all rights to appeal the Defendant's conviction on the ground that the statute(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, or on the ground that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s).
- B. The Defendant knowingly and expressly waives all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal whatever sentence is imposed (including any fine, term of supervised release, or order of restitution) for any reason (including the establishment of the advisory sentencing guidelines range, the determination of the defendant's criminal history, the weighing of the sentencing factors, and any constitutional challenges to the calculation and imposition of any term of imprisonment, fine, order of forfeiture, order of restitution, and term or condition of supervised release).
- C. To challenge the conviction or the sentence which is within the maximum provided in the statute of conviction or the manner in which it was determined in any post-conviction proceeding, including any proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Nothing in this paragraph, however, will act as a bar to Defendant perfecting any legal remedies he may otherwise have on appeal or collateral attack respecting claims of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct. Defendant agrees that there is currently no known evidence of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct.


Raimonte Gordon Gaston Defendant

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Date


L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant

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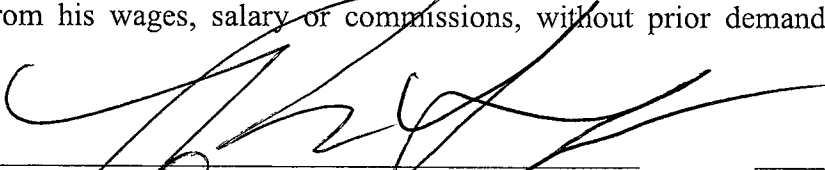
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This waiver of appellate rights is not intended to represent the Defendant's estimation of what an appropriate or reasonable sentence would or should be. Nor does this waiver of rights prevent Defendant from arguing for a sentence below the aforementioned adjusted advisory Guideline offense level at sentencing. The United States waives its right to appeal any sentence within the applicable advisory Guideline range. Both parties have the right during any appeal to argue in support of the sentence.

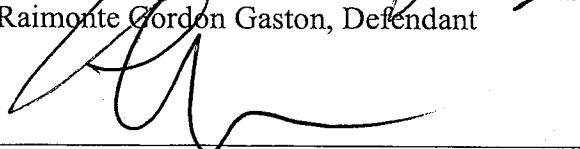
9. The United States reserves the right to provide to the Court and the United States Probation Office, in connection with any presentence investigation that may be ordered pursuant to Rule 32(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or in connection with the imposition of sentence should the Court, pursuant to Rule 32(c)(1), not order a presentence investigation, relevant information, including information regarding Defendant's background, criminal record, the offense charged in the Superseding Indictment and other pertinent data appearing at Rule 32(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as will enable the Court to exercise its sentencing discretion. The United States also retains the right to respond to any questions raised by the Court, to correct any inaccuracies or inadequacies in the anticipated presentence investigation report to be prepared by the Probation Office of the Court, and to respond to any written or oral statements made by the Court, by Defendant or his counsel.

10. The defendant agrees that all monetary penalties imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3613. Furthermore, the defendant agrees to provide all requested financial information to the United States and the U.S. Probation Office, and agrees to participate in a pre-sentencing debtor examination if requested by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The defendant also authorizes the Financial Litigation Unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office to access the defendant's credit report from any major credit reporting agency prior to sentencing in order to assess his financial condition for sentencing purposes. The defendant agrees to complete a financial statement, under penalty of perjury, and to submit the financial statement on the date specified and in accordance with instructions provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The defendant further agrees that any schedule of payments imposed by the Court represents the defendant's minimal financial obligation and shall not constitute the only method available to the United States to enforce or collect any criminal monetary penalty judgment. If the defendant is sentenced to a period of incarceration, the defendant agrees to participate in the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, even if the Court does not specifically direct participation. In addition, the defendant agrees that the United States, through the Financial Litigation Unit, may submit any unpaid criminal monetary penalty to the United States Treasury for offset in accordance with the Treasury Offset Program, regardless of the defendant's payment status or history at that time.

In order to pay any outstanding criminal monetary penalties, the defendant agrees to a voluntary garnishment of 25% of all nonexempt net disposable earnings from any job or employment, to be withheld from his wages, salary or commissions, without prior demand for payment under the Federal Debt


Raimonte Gordon Gaston, Defendant


Date


L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant


Date

Collection Procedures Act, 28 U.S.C. § 3205. The defendant hereby also waives any exceptions that may be applicable under the Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1673.

11. Defendant understands that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are now advisory and no longer mandatory. It is therefore understood that the sentencing court may ascertain and impose a sentence below or above the applicable Guideline range, so long as that sentence is reasonable and within the statutory maximum specified in Title 18 of the United States Code for the offenses of conviction.

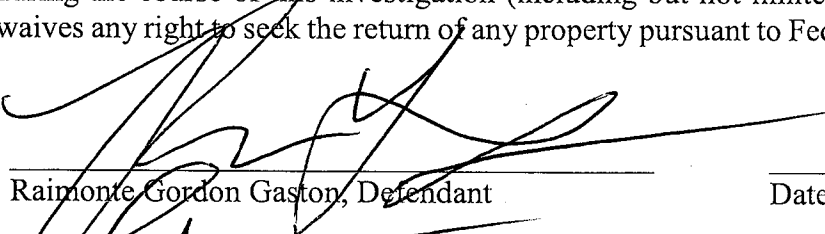
12. If Defendant's plea is not accepted by the Court or is later set aside or if he breaches any part of this Agreement, then the Office of the United States Attorney will have the right to withdraw any sentencing recommendations and/or to void this Agreement.

13. Defendant understands that the forfeiture of property will be part of the sentence imposed in this case and agrees to the forfeiture of all property encompassed in the charging instrument's Forfeiture Allegation. The defendant stipulates to the existence of the requisite forfeiture nexus between the offense conduct underlying this agreement and the following specified property, which are proceeds of the offense of conviction, and property that facilitated the offense of conviction: **\$1,622.00 in U.S. currency and a silver Apple iPhone, model A1660**, seized from the Defendant on January 1, 2019.

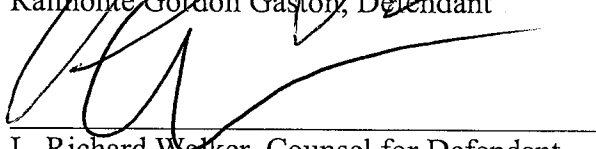
The defendant hereby waives all interest in any property subject to this plea agreement in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. By signing this agreement, the defendant hereby withdraws any claim the defendant may have filed in any administrative forfeiture action and agrees to the entry of a Declaration of Forfeiture. The defendant also agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, the announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and the incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the United States to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding.

The defendant also waives all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this plea agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment. The defendant further waives any failure by the Court to advise the defendant of the applicable forfeiture at the time the guilty plea is accepted as required by Rule 11(b)(1)(J).

Defendant agrees to forfeit and abandon any right to any and all evidence and property seized during the course of this investigation (including but not limited to any item subject to forfeiture), and waives any right to seek the return of any property pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41 or otherwise. Defendant


Raimonte Gordon Gaston, Defendant

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L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant

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understands and agrees that items seized during the course of this investigation will be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the seizing law enforcement agency.

14. The above 13 paragraphs constitute the entire agreement between Defendant and the United States of America in this matter. **There are no agreements, understandings, or promises between the parties other than those contained in this Agreement.**

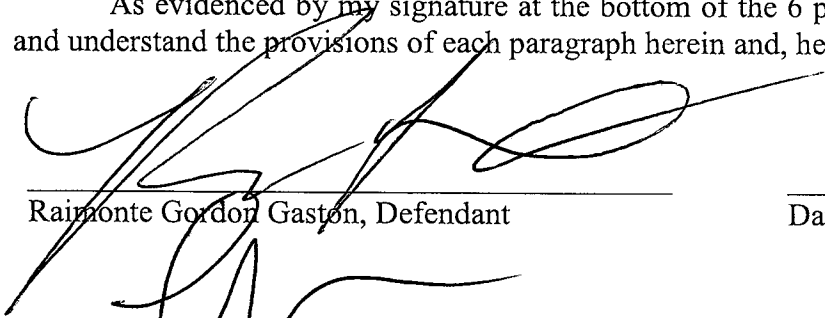
Very truly yours,

WILLIAM J. POWELL
United States Attorney

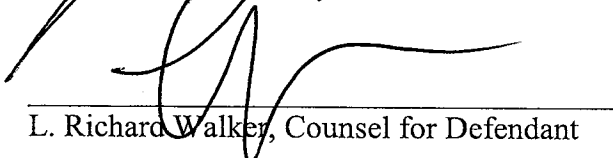
By:


Shawn M. Adkins
Assistant United States Attorney

As evidenced by my signature at the bottom of the 6 pages of this letter agreement, I have read and understand the provisions of each paragraph herein and, hereby, fully approve of each provision.


Raimonte Gordon Gaston, Defendant

1-16-20
Date


L. Richard Walker, Counsel for Defendant

1-11-20
Date